

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS RESPOND TO BERLINGUER'S CALL
FOR MORE FORMALIZED CONSULTATIONS

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LA REPUBBLICA OCTOBER 26
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) VICE SECRETARY GIOVANNI GAL-
LONI REJECTED THE CALL MADE BY COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) SECRE-
TARY BERLINGUER IN HIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SPEECH ON OCTOBER 18
FOR A MORE FORMALIZED SYSTEM OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARC. AT THE
SAME TIME THAT GALLONI WAS MAKING KNOWN THE VIEWS OF THE DC
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LEADERSHIP, PCI ECONOMIC EXPERT BARCA WAS REITERATING THE

BERLINGUER INITIATIVE IN A LEAD EDITORIAL THE FORMER PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION IN L'UNITA ON OCTOBER 26. SPECIFICALLY BARCA WROTE THAT "TO PASS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM A BREATHELESS SUCCESSION OF EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO AN ORGANIC MANAGEMENT OF THE CRISIS" IT IS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT BERLINGUER'S PROPOSAL FOR "AN OPEN CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PARTIES AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT."

2. IN PROVIDING A CATEGORICALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO THE PCI PROBE, GALLONI SAID THAT THE DC CANNOT ACCEPT FORMAL "MEETINGS" WITH THE PCI. HE ARGUED THAT TO ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD CHANGE THE "NATURE" OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AND HE REMINDED HIS READERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT BASED ON A COLLEGIAL ACCORD BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PARTIES AT THE TIME THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT WAS BORN. AS IF TO SOFTEN THE TONE OF THE DC RESPONSE, GALLONI ADDED THAT AT A MAXIMUM THE DC WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO A "FORMALIZATION" OF THE MEETINGS WHICH NOW TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR.

3. L'UNITA OCTOBER 27 RESPONDS TO GALLONI'S EXPOSITION OF THE DC POSITION IN A UNSIGNED LEAD EDITORIAL WHICH IS BOTH CRITICAL AND SARCASTIC IN TONE. THE THRUST OF THE NEWSPAPER'S PIECE IS THAT GALLONI'S ARGUMENT REFLECTS THE TOTAL DC UNWILLINGNESS TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE CURRENT CRISIS CONFRONTING THE NATION. AS FOR A "CONFRONTO" IN THE PARLIAMENT,

THE EDITORIAL POINTS TO THE PRESENCE OF ONLY ONE DC DEPUTY ON THE FLOOR OF THE CHAMBER DURING PORTIONS OF THE FINAL DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW BUDGET.

4. AS FOR THE OTHER PARTIES, THE SOCIALISTS (PSI) CRITICIZE THE DC VICE SECRETARY FOR MAKING AN ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY THAT MAKES UP THE GOVERNMENT. THE TIME FOR COMPROMISING LONG-HELD CONVICTIONS IS HERE, SAYS THE PSI, IN DEMANDING THAT THE DC UNDERTAKE TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN "COLLEGIAL" CONTACT WITH ALL THE PARTIES WHICH ABSTAINED ON THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. IN A CRISP COMMENT THE PRI'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT GALLONI MUST

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"LIVE ON THE MOON" FOR HIM TO SO COMPLETELY DISASSOCIATE THE DC FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR TODAY'S DESPERATE CRISIS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE DC MADE THE CORRECT DECISION. FOR THE PCI, THE RATIONALE FOR "ORGANIC CONSULTATION" IS IN PART THE SAME AS THE RATIONALE FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY: TO SPREAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUTHERITY MEASURES TO ALL PARTIES AND THEREBY AVOID THE INDIVIDUAL

RESPONSIBILITY THAT IS CAUSING IT ITS PRESENT PROBLEMS WITH
THE BASE OF THE PARTY AND THE LABOR UNIONS. AT LEAST FOR THE
PRESENT, IF THE DC CAN HOLD FIRM TO THIS POSITION AND INSIST
ON AN OPEN "CONFRONTO" IN PARLIAMENT, THE PCI'S AND CGIL'S
INTERNAL PROBLEMS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE. VOLPE

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